

DPD 6711-59

2 October 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Security Officer, DPD-DD/P

SUBJECT: Shipment of Film

1. Upon receipt of the original negatives of mission 6038 and 6042 at PIC, the metal film containers were opened, and it was discovered that they contained considerable moisture; one can containing almost a cup of water.

2. When wet, the film is subjected to two immediate dangers:

a. If left in water - the emulsion will soak off the backing.

b. If wet in roll form and then dried, the film surfaces will stick together and emulsion damaged when an attempt is made to unroll the film.

3. In reconstructing events on this shipment, [] obtained the following information from [] the courier on the flight from Japan to Washington:

a. Flight from Japan to San Francisco was made aboard C-124 which returned []

b. Flight from San Francisco to Washington was aboard a jet 707 at altitudes up to 33,000 feet. Film containers were carried in an unpressurized and unheated bay of the 707.

c. Upon landing at San Francisco, it was raining and [] [] made a determined effort to avoid getting containers wet.

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4. From the above, it is apparent that the source of the moisture in the film cans upon receipt was due to condensation acquired on the 707 flight from San Francisco to Washington. In fact, probably during let-down at Friendship Airport.

a. C-124 cargo bay (Tokyo to San Francisco) is heated (though unpressurized) sufficiently well to preclude significant temperatures differences. Also, C-124's fly at a lower and warmer altitude than do the jet liners.

b. Rain (at San Francisco) ruled out because containers are hermetically sealed and pressure relief valves maintain a 4 psi pressure even at sea level.

5. In addition to moisture problems mentioned above, film becomes extremely brittle and may be inadvertently cracked or torn if opened and unrolled while it is cold. On a 6000 foot roll of "B" film, several hours would be required to bring film to a safe ambient temperature if it had been subjected to sub-zero temperatures for very long periods.

6. In this instance, water in the film cans was discovered in time and PIC [] was able, by prompt and effective action, to preclude any permanent damage to the film.

7. To eliminate possible damage to film shipments caused by condensation, it is recommended that:

a. When possible, film be shipped in a pressurized and/or heated compartment.

b. If jet transport is to be utilized, special arrangements should be made to carry containers in lounge (not normally used on night flights) or other pressurized section. If not available on jet aircraft, shipment should be delayed until other transport arrangements are made.

SIGNED

[]
Chief, Operations Branch, DPD

RSQ:bm

1 - addressee

1 - AC/DPD

1 - PIC []

1 - Ch. [] Approved For Release 2002/07/22 : CIA-RDP61-00763A000200090105-8

1 - R&D []

1 - Ops subj / 1 - Ops chron / 1 - RI

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